

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

SECURITY THREATS TO CANADA'S 44th ELECTIONS – UPDATE

This assessment is intended to provide situational awareness of domestic security-related threats to Canada's 44th general elections. The information in this assessment is based on reporting from the RCMP Combined Intelligence Group, law enforcement partners, searches against RCMP holdings, and open source resources (information current as of 13 September, 2021, 0900hrs). The IMCIT continues to maintain visibility on emerging threats and will provide updates on a weekly and as required basis.

KEY POINTS

- Since 7 September 2021, the IMCIT has noted several instances of individuals who have advocated for violence online prior to public order events, including towards the All Party Leader's English language debate, at hospital protests, and against advance polling stations. This marks an escalation in violent rhetoric that has not previously been observed.
- Incidents of vandalism targeting election candidate signs continue for a number of political parties, while some LPC candidates have been the recipients of more targeted intimidation activity.
- The RCMP has received information about several instances of belligerent individuals appearing at advance polling stations or threatening to sue Elections Canada if denied entry to a polling station due to their refusal to wear a mask.
- Anti-vaccine/anti-lockdown/anti-mask grievances are continuing to drive both online discussions and in-person protests. In particular, the Canadian Frontline Nurses are protesting against mandatory vaccinations outside hospitals in various cities across Canada.
- Although not directly linked to the elections, the RCMP is also investigating a recent YouTube video posted by a potential self-described militia group. The rhetoric in the content of the video and responses by the group in the comments section are a "call to arms", seeking to convince viewers to become involved in an uprising against a tyrannical government.

PURPOSE

(U) To provide an overview of the current domestic threat environment related to Canada's 44th general elections, as of 13 September 2021.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police
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Canada

ASSESSMENT

The past 72 hours witnessed a continuation of direct and indirect threats posted online towards the Prime Minister (PM), with recent threats emerging via email and 4chan posts¹. Incidents of vandalism targeting election candidate signs continue for a number of political parties, while some LPC candidates have been the recipients of more targeted intimidation activity:

- An LPC candidate had several of his election posts defaced with anti-Semitic images, including swastikas.²
- Another LPC candidate reported that his vehicle was vandalized while parked outside his home.³
- Some instances of physical intimidation have also taken place. A LPC candidate in Regina reported being harassed and intimidated, and then having dog feces thrown at his car while campaigning.⁴

The RCMP and applicable Police of Jurisdiction (PoJ) are investigating all such instances of threats and intimidation.

Advance polling stations opened for the Federal Election for the period covering 10-13 September 2021. Occasional instances of belligerent electors confronting Elections Canada staff are expected to occur, given the requirement that electors must wear a mask as required by the province, territory, or region. The RCMP has received information about several instances of belligerent individuals appearing at polling stations or threatening to sue Elections Canada if denied entry to a polling station due to their refusal to wear a mask.⁵ In the realm of online threats, the RCMP received information about a Twitter user who responded to a TVA news article about bilingual greetings at the polls, saying "we will greet you with 9mm bullets." The RCMP is investigating.⁶

Anti-vaccine/anti-lockdown/anti-mask grievances are continuing to drive both online discussions and in-person protests. In particular, the Canadian Frontline Nurses are protesting against mandatory vaccinations outside hospitals in various cities across Canada.⁷ Open source information suggests that there may be a counter-protest in response to the protests in Alberta.⁸ Counter-protests may act as a flash-point and cause for public and officer safety concerns. The protests will specifically target hospitals across Canada and are scheduled for ten different provinces. Multiple tweets have been sent by one Twitter user calling for "battle" at local hospital protests. In response to an unrelated image of a person firing a weapon, the Twitter user also encouraged users to bring weapons to a purported "raid" at Toronto's General Hospital in an effort "to get inside [the hospital] and show the world that Covid is fake."⁹ There has been a marked escalation over the past week that demonstrates that some individuals are advocating for violence prior to these protests. The RCMP and applicable PoJs are tracking and investigating.

Another rally to note occurred in Calgary on Sunday, which focused on protesting vaccine mandates and other public health measures; roughly 2,000 people were in attendance.¹⁰ According to news reports, one man carried a flag reading "molon labe" - an apocryphal ancient Greek quote from King Leonidas of Sparta that translates to "come and take them" - which has been used as a rallying cry for neo-fascist groups in the U.S. and Europe.¹¹ Additionally, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton expressed disgust at

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photos that showed some protesters equating vaccine mandates with the genocide committed by Nazi Germany.¹²

The RCMP is also investigating a recent YouTube video posted by a potential self-described militia group. The video shows four masked persons in military attire carrying long barrelled military style weapons. The group calls itself the "F49 Militia", a "collective of citizens that are willing to do whatever it takes", who are presenting the LYNX movement to viewers. According to the video, LYNX stands for, "liberate your neighbourhood, liberate your nation". The video itself does not mention the election. The rhetoric in the content of the video and responses by the group in the comments section is a "call to arms", seeking to implore viewers to become involved in an uprising against a tyrannical government. There is no direct threat made to any person and the group does not reference any particular political affiliation. The RCMP is examining the video and associated content for indications of criminality and has engaged with applicable security and law enforcement partners.¹³

Distribution List

RCMP, s.37 [REDACTED] Panel of Five

Issued by: Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

Approved by: Director, Directorate of Strategic Intelligence, Federal Policing National Intelligence

- 1 [REDACTED]
- 2 <https://globalnews.ca/news/8184375/canada-election-vandalism-liberal-chris-bittle/>
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/mceachern-regina-wascana-harassment-1.6171268>
- 5 September 12, 2021 emails from Elections Canada Security Incident Coordination Centre
- 6 [REDACTED]
- 7 <https://globalnews.ca/news/8185603/hospital-protests-canada-anti-covid-vaccine-mandates/>
- 8 https://twitter.com/Albert_Nobbs/status/1437171700265730050
- 9 [REDACTED]
- 10 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-vaccine-protest-1.6173293>
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 <https://twitter.com/JewishEdmonton/status/1437220130266615813>
- 13 September 13, 2021 email from Elections Canada Security Incident Coordination Centre

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